

AETC News Clips



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15 SEP 01

Doubt is cast on Lackland link to hijackings

By Sig Christenson
San Antonio Express-News

Web Posted : 09/15/2001

Federal authorities were investigating the possibility Friday night that at least two men believed to have been among 19 terrorists killed in last week's suicide-plane attacks studied at a Lackland AFB school.

Three of the 19 men had the same names as some who studied at Defense Language Institutes in San Antonio or Monterey, Calif., according to the Defense Department.

The institutes teach English to military and government officials of other nations.

It wasn't clear if all three lived here or had studied in California, and the Pentagon wasn't prepared to identify the students as hijackers.

"Some of the FBI's suspects had names similar to names used by foreign alumni of the U.S. military courses," Pentagon spokesman Capt. David Westover said Friday night.

"However, discrepancies in their biographical data, such as birthdates 20 years off, indicate we're probably not talking about the same people."

Still, the investigation continues.

Rumors of an Alamo City connection to Tuesday's terrorist attacks on the Pentagon and World Trade Center that left an estimated 5,000 dead have sparked a flurry of reports widely aired on TV and radio new shows, but there is little official confirmation of any connection.

The San Antonio Express-News will not release the names of the students unless federal authorities positively identify them as the hijackers or suspects in the terrorist plan.

Lackland deferred all comments on the matter to the Defense Department;

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officials there, too, were cautious. The Pentagon's top spokesman, Rear Adm. Craig Quigley, said it was possible that one of the DLI students had "an identical or very similar name" to one of the hijackers.

He declined to reveal such details as the man's age or country of origin.

"We don't know if it's the same guy," Quigley said. "We haven't sorted that out yet."

A check of the other names on the list of 19 released Friday showed two others with addresses in San Antonio, but it was unclear whether they were one and the same.

At one house on the North-Central Side, a woman who identified herself as the wife of the man whose name was the same as that on the list said he had not lived in the United States "for a long time" and declined further comment.

Meanwhile, there was little new to report about the doctor now on a leave of absence from the University of Texas Health Science Center whose house was searched by FBI agents Thursday.

An FBI spokeswoman in Washington said little, but residents of the doctor's Medical Center neighborhood told reporters that agents had removed several items from the doctor's home.

A hospital official said Friday that one FBI agent told an administrator there was nothing barring the doctor from returning to work, but the physician still was on leave.

Two of the men identified by the Pentagon as possible DLI students had San Antonio addresses, with one living on the Southwest Side and a second person residing on Lackland. It wasn't clear how long they had lived in San Antonio.

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Express-News: America in Agony

35,000 reservists called up

By Sig Christenson

San Antonio Express-News

Web Posted : 09/15/2001

President Bush issued a call of up to 50,000 military reservists to active duty on Friday, marking the first such action since the Persian Gulf War.

As the weekend began, individual units had yet to receive orders, but thousands of reservists in Texas and San Antonio could be affected.

The call-up was limited to 35,000 men and women, with the Air Force and Army contributing the bulk of the forces. The call-up also will affect 7,500 Marines, 3,000 in the Navy and 2,000 in the Coast Guard.

"That's never a decision taken lightly," Pentagon spokesman Rear Adm. Craig Quigley said late Friday.

"There are two particular areas where the reserve component of the military can play a particular role, and that is homeland defense and support to civil authorities," he added. "And there are particular skills within the reserve component that go directly to satisfying both of those needs."

The partial mobilization ordered in the wake of Tuesday's terrorist attacks on the Pentagon and World Trade Center will principally affect reservists specializing in port operations, engineering and civil support, and homeland defense.

Bush's father, President George Bush, was in the White House the last time a call-up was ordered on Jan. 18, 1991. Then, 265,322 Guard and Reserve members were activated as the United States led a multinational coalition to victory over Iraq in the Gulf War.

It wasn't known if any of the roughly 20,000 soldiers and airmen in the Texas National Guard would soon be mobilized.

"We're kind of in the same boat as y'all," said the Guard's Spc. Luke Elliott. "We're curious."

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The 49th Armored Division made history last year when it became the first National Guard unit to command active-duty and multinational troops in Bosnia. The 49th's tour of duty in Bosnia marked a major turn in the way the Army, Army Reserve and National Guard interact.

Active-duty and part-time troops will now trade roles in leading the Bosnia peacekeeping mission for the next three years.

With the nation on the precipice of war, the 5th U.S. Army at Fort Sam Houston also could be a major player. The 5th Army's 131,225 National Guardsmen and 58,812 Reserve soldiers provide training support across a 21-state region west of the Mississippi.

While it has 371 units in Texas, the Atlanta-based Army Reserve Command couldn't say how many are in San Antonio.

One of the city's most prominent Air Force Reserve units, the 433rd Airlift Wing at Lackland AFB, with 3,200 airmen, is already helping support New York City's search-and-rescue effort.

At Randolph AFB, the 340th Flying Training Group is another unit that could be tapped under the edict. It provides full- and part-time instructor pilots for flying training squadrons at undergraduate pilot training bases in the Air Education and Training Command.

Further west, the 96th Flying Training Squadron at Laughlin AFB in Del Rio stands ready, but isn't expected to be called because most of those there are assigned to pilot training.

In Fort Worth, the 301st Fighter Wing at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve

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Fighters' tardy response defended

U.S. now has fewer jets standing by

By CAROLYN SKORNECK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Bush's nominee for chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff was pressed Thursday to explain why the military didn't scramble jets faster to respond to terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Air Force Gen. Richard Myers conceded to the Senate Armed Services Committee that the military didn't get any fighters into the air until after the second World Trade Center tower was struck, revising an

earlier statement that they didn't lift off until far later, after the Pentagon was attacked.

"What happened to the response of the defense establishment?" Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., asked Myers at his confirmation hearing.

Myers said that after the second tower was hit, he spoke to NORAD's commander, Air Force Gen. Ralph Eberhart, "and I think the decision at that point was to start launching aircraft."

*Col. Mike Perini, a North American Aerospace Defense Command spokesman, said Tuesday night that fighters were ordered to intercept one of the airliners that hit the World Trade Center.

However, he said, the jets were just lifting off when the airliner struck.

And there were no military

"We have many fewer aircraft on alert than we did during the height of the Cold War."

RICHARD MYERS
U.S. Air Force general

planes in the sky over Washington until 15 to 20 minutes after the Pentagon was hit — some 40 minutes after the second New York tower was attacked, a defense official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The rest of the day, the military was on high alert. A false alarm of a hijacking of a KAL flight from Korea to the United States sent fighters scrambling to keep it out of U.S. airspace, which had been closed to all civilian air traffic.

Myers cited one cause of delay in the initial response: "We

have many fewer aircraft on alert than we did during the height of the Cold War."

"It's not just a question of launching aircraft, it's a question of launching to do what?" he said. "You have to have a specific threat. We're pretty good at threats from outside, we're not so good at threats coming from inside."

Myers confirmed rumors about a fifth plane that was headed toward the United States on Tuesday with a report of being hijacked.

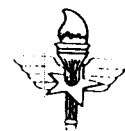
The plane's transponder indicated by code that it had been hijacked, but after U.S. fighters steered it over Alaska and the plane landed safely in Canada, it became clear there had been no hijacking, Myers said.

The second defense official identified it as a KAL aircraft.

"I don't know ... whether it was a mistaken switch setting or what," he said, but asserted, "The plane was not hijacked. ... We had other things to do at that time, and once it was safely on the ground, the passengers were safe, we went onto the next order of business."

Myers said he knew of a report of another aircraft headed to the United States that was called back by its company and returned to Europe.

He rejected rumors that the military shot down the hijacked plane that crashed in Pennsylvania.



Express News

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DATE 14 Sep 01

Child struck, killed by car

2-year-old wandered into road

Lynda Stringer
Times Record News

CASHION — A quiet country road became the scene of death when a toddler died after being struck by a car Thursday.

Isaac Williams, only five days shy of his second birthday, got out of his home on Carriage Lane, four miles east of Burkburnett, and wandered 200 yards away into the middle of Bailey Road, where he was struck and killed by a neighbor's car.

He was the son of Air Force Capt. Jonathon and April Williams of Cashion.

It happened around 9 a.m., Texas Department of Public Safety officials said, as 2nd Lt. Jonathon Scott Gration Jr., a student pilot with the 80th Flying Training Wing, was leaving his nearby home for Sheppard Air Force Base.

Gration was traveling west on Bailey Road and while distracted by something in the car, struck the child, Wichita County Sheriff's Department Capt. Grady Smith said.

What distracted him? "We're going to skip that," DPS Sgt. Pablo Garcia said. He did say speed did not seem to be a major factor. The speed limit on the county road is 60 mph.

Garcia said the DPS is conducting an investigation that could result in criminal charges if the Wichita County District Attorney's office

decides to prosecute. Child Protective Services and the DA's office were also at the scene.

The child was hit by the front of the vehicle and the car rolled over him, he said. The boy died as a result of head injuries.

"This type of accident just rips your heart out," Garcia said. "It hits you real, real hard. It's tragic."

Janet Cox, the secretary at Janlee Baptist Church in Burkburnett, where April and Jonathon Williams attended church with their five children, said she heard the awful news from Janlee's pastor, Jim Smithee.

"He was running from the parsonage back to the office and he said we needed to go to the Williams' home, that one of their youngest had been hit by a car," Cox said.

A dozen sheriff's deputies responded because they didn't know what type of call they were facing. They only knew a child was dead. When they realized it was a traffic accident the investigation was turned over to the DPS.

But before the deputies, troopers, Burkburnett first responders and American Medical Response paramedics arrived, a doctor was the first on scene: the little boy's grief-stricken father. Gration had been holding the boy in his arms until his father arrived.

Williams, a physician at Sheppard Hospital's Special

Sheppard AFB, Wichita Falls, Texas

Times Record News, 14 Sep 2001, Page 3B

Email: www.trnonline.com



Harry Tonemah/Times Record News

American Medical Response paramedic Richie Ray receives words of sympathy from a fellow emergency response person as he sits over the body of a 2-year-old boy

struck and killed by a car on Bailey Road Thursday morning. Ray's emotions for the boy's father spurred him to relieve the father and maintain vigil over the child.

Care Unit, was too late to save his young son.

"April was very hysterical as any mother would be," said Cox, who spoke with April Williams when she came out of her house to talk to her father.

The young stay-at-home mother was giving her two youngest children — Isaac, 2, and Gabriel, 7 months — a bath at the time of the accident. Her three older children — Christian, 5, Jonna, 9, and Joshua, 13 — were in school.

She was washing the youngest child when Isaac wandered away.

"He was very active and he opened a door and got out and the mother was in the process of looking for him when he was struck by the car," Smith said.

He said Gratton, who was alone in his Mazda 626, told authorities he didn't see any-

thing in the road and when he stopped and looked back he thought he'd run over a doll. "He ran home and told his roommate and they both came back up here after calling 911," Smith said.

"It's a tragedy," said Cash-ion Mayor Tom Lowry, who arrived at the scene as soon as he heard about it on the scanner. The family had lived in his town just six weeks.

Cox recalled the distraught words of April Williams:

"She said, 'I realized he got out of the house and I went one way and couldn't see him and ran the other direction and found the accident. If I had gone this direction first I might could have saved him.'"

Smith was with the family trying to comfort and counsel the grieving parents. Family members arrived in

shock and were held behind crime scene tape stretched across the road about 75 yards from the lifeless body of the child. Deputies told them to go around the block to access the home. Church members arrived, also in tears, looking for a way to help.

The boy's body was covered as paramedics kept a vigil over him, openly displaying their own grief.

"The EMS personnel were sitting by the body, they never left him," Garcia said. "It's not for his protection, it's for them."

Cox said she couldn't imagine ever losing a child, but offered words of comfort to the couple.

"They have to remember that God loves them and has not forsaken them and work through this one day at a time."

Sheppard AFB, Wichita Falls, Texas

Times Record News, 14 Sep 2001, Page 3B

Email: www.trnonline.com

Budget round ups Tyndall ante

F-22 RAPTOR: That sound may be wedding bells.

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld was beating the drum for more military base closings last week. He also was tooting the horn for the F-22 Raptor on which Tyndall Air Force Base's future may lie. If that sounds dissonant, it is: Closing Tyndall but going forward with the F-22 wouldn't make sense.

Tyndall's friends in Congress seem to be throwing everything they can into this arranged marriage.

Other Florida military installations would get money for new dining halls, medical clinics, housing, fire stations and air traffic control towers in the military budget approved by the Senate Armed Services Committee last week.

Tyndall's \$15 million share of the \$250 million in construction funds approved for Florida would go entirely for Raptor-related hanger facilities. That's on top of a \$25 million training center already under construction.

Last month the Defense Acquisition Board approved initial orders for a projected total of 295 raptors, an

important step. That's 36 fewer than what the Air Force wanted, and opponents in Congress will try to make it fewer still if they can't succeed in killing the fighter altogether.

Critics deride the F-22 as a \$220 million Cold War relic. They note that its whole idea as a weapons system was to be superior to the next generation of Soviet fighters. They say it already is obsolete. Realistically, the stealth fighters probably will cost only \$60 million to \$100 million each, depending on how many are built over the next decade.

A half-dozen Air Force bases around the country will get a piece of the F-22 action, some even sooner than Tyndall. As *The News Herald's* Mohammad A.

Faruqui has reported, however, Tyndall has been designated the fighter's premier training base. Without the training and maintenance facilities under construction and planned at Tyndall, the F-22 wouldn't be of much use. And without the F-22 ... well, let's not talk about that.

DEATHS

Capt. Andrew 'Drew' Kajans

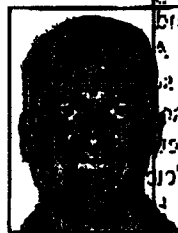
Captain Andrew (Drew) Kajans, 36, of Del Rio, Texas, went home to be with the Lord on Thursday, Sept. 6, 2001 at Wilford Hall Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas.

He was born Nov. 21, 1964, in Reno, Nevada. Drew was a devoted husband to Trina Ann and loving father of Bailey Ana and Marina Claire.

He was stationed at Laughlin Air Force Base near Del Rio as a T-37 Instructor Pilot assigned to the 96th Flying Training Squadron. Throughout his journey, he touched everyone he met with his easygoing nature and ready smile. His generous heart and humble spirit brought joy to family and friends alike. Drew's love of life and sparkling wit will live on through the memories of all who were privileged to know him.

Survivors are his wife, Trinda Kajans and daughters, Bailey and Marina Kajans of Del Rio; parents, Fred and Liliana Kajans of Reno; brothers, Don Kajans and his wife Sue, and Doug Kajans, all of Reno; sister, Karen Thomas

and her husband Art of Lummi Island, Wash.; in-laws, Larry and Jacqueline Broussard of Abbeville, Louisiana; and several aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins.



Visitation will be today, starting at 5 p.m. with a rosary at Sacred Heart Church. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday at Sacred Heart Church with a burial at Del Rio Memorial Park. The 47th Flying Wing, Laughlin Air Force Base, will provide military honors.

Pallbearers will be Don Kajans, Doug Kajans, Larry Broussard, Art Thomas, George Fenimore and Kirk Kirkland.

Memorials may be made to the Drew Kajans Memorial Fund, 570 2nd St., Room 2259, Laughlin AFB, TX 78843. Funeral arrangements with G.W. Cox Memorial Funeral Home at 114 Fletcher Dr. in Del Rio, (830) 775-2000.

LAUGHLIN AFB, TX
DEL RIO NEWS HERALD

DAY: Mon DATE: 10 Sep 01 PG: 2

More than an inch of rain drenches city

KAREN GLEASON

Staff Writer

More than an inch of rain dumped on the city Sunday morning caused more headaches than harm as runoff filled streets and briefly flooded low water crossings.

According to the National Weather Service Austin/San Antonio, Del Rio got 1.25 inches of rain Sunday, bringing the city's month-to-date total to 2.24. Some areas likely received more.

Del Rio Fire and Rescue sounded weather sirens shortly after the National Weather Service issued a flash flood warning at 10:41 a.m. Sunday.

The warning issued locally said, "The National Weather Service has issued a flash flood warning for Val Verde County until 1 p.m. CDT. At 10:41 a.m. National Weather Service Doppler Radar indicated very heavy rain from Del Rio and Laughlin AFB to Loma Alta and Comstock. Rainfall rates of 2-3 inches per hour will continue. Flooding is likely on low water crossings on Highways 90, 211 and 377. Flooding along San Felipe Creek, Sycamore Creek, as well as streams flowing into

Lake Amistad is likely. Excessive runoff from this storm will cause flash flooding of small creeks and streams, highways and underpasses. Additionally, country roads and farmlands along the banks of creeks and streams and other low-lying areas are subject to flash flooding. A flash flood warning means that flooding is occurring or is imminent. Most flash flood deaths occur in automobiles. Do not attempt to cross bridges, dips or other low-lying spots if water crosses the roadway. Never try to cross a flowing stream, even a small one, on foot. To escape rising water, move up to higher ground."

Despite the warnings of the National Weather Service, some foolhardy souls ignored them.

The Del Rio Police Department, as well as the Val Verde County Sheriff's Office was kept busy throughout the early afternoon hours Sunday, as officers were dispatched to a number of low water crossings to close them and keep motorists from attempting to cross.

Low water crossings on Railway, Fox Drive, Kings Way, Alta Vista, Stricklen Ave., Amistad Blvd. and Cantu Road into Spring Lake Estates were barricaded and manned by police and sheriff's deputies for a short time.

Police officers reported that the Academy Street bridge into San Felipe briefly had several inches running over it as the storm passed over the city.

Del Rio Police officers Tony Jasso, Paul Hurley and Ronzina Adato were dispatched to the intersection of Avenue F and Braddie Drive at Wal-Mart to keep motorists out of the rising water. Police briefly barricaded Bedell Avenue to keep motorists from the intersection.

Sunday's rain brings to 7.78 inches the rain Del Rio has received since Jan. 1, still representing a 4.61-inch deficit from the 12.39 inches normally received by this time.

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LAUGHLIN AFB, TX

DEL RIO NEWS HERALD

DAY: Mon DATE: 10 Sep 01 PG: 1 of 2

Base closings

No need to hire more consultants

The state is experiencing financial problems, but even in flush times, paying \$200,000 to a consultant to help protect the state's interest in the expected round of military base closings is an irresponsible waste of money.

J.C. Burns, executive director of the Mississippi Development Authority, told state legislative leaders that Washington attorney Barry Rhoads is the state's eyes and ears on base closing issues.

What in the world is Mississippi's congressional delegation? That delegation includes two of the most powerful senators in the Senate and five representatives, plus their big staffs. What the heck are they doing if not being the state's "eyes and ears" on base closings?

Mississippi has a lot at stake with Meridian Naval Air Station, Columbus Air Force Base and Keesler Air Force Base. They need to stay open. But spending \$200,000 for a consultant is ridiculous. Legislative leaders should nix this item and leave it to the people elected to do this job.

COLUMBUS AFB MS

The Clarion Ledger, 8 Sep 01, pg. 13A

State to fight for bases

■ Proposal on new round of closures OK'd by Senate panel

By Ana Radelet
Gannett News Service

WASHINGTON — The Senate moved toward a new round of base closings this week, but Mississippi lawmakers say they'll reject the plan to shutter more military

INSIDE

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facilities.

The new base closure plan is part of a \$329 billion defense authorization bill the full Senate is expected to approve next week. But Sen. Trent Lott is likely to vote no.

"I've opposed (base clos-

ities from a final closing list.

Nevertheless, Pentagon spokesman Glenn Flood called the Senate action "a good first step" toward a new round of base closings.

The Pentagon says 20-25 percent of military facilities are no longer needed and should be shut to save money for other defense priorities.

But House members have shown little support for base



Lott

ing) before, so I'm not inconsistent," said the Mississippi Republican. The Senate Armed Services Committee revealed details Friday of the base closing proposal approved on a 17-3 vote the night before.

closings. It failed to include a base closing proposal in its defense authorization bill and may succeed in derailing the Senate's effort.

"The community has been through this before and we're very prepared to go through it again. This is something we've been preparing for and it will not catch us off guard," said

See BASES, 12A

The measure would set up a new independent panel to study Pentagon suggestions for closings and submit a final list to Congress for an up-or-down vote. It would allow one round of closings, to occur in 2003, instead of the two rounds the Pentagon sought, and failed to give Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld the power he sought to delete certain facil-

COLUMBUS AFB MS

The Clarion Ledger, 8 Sep 01, pg. 1/12A

Bases: Meridian base previously targeted 3 times for closure

From 1A

business development official Frank Thompson of Meridian, where at Naval Air Station Meridian nearly 1,800 service members are stationed and two squadrons train flight students.

None of Mississippi's lawmakers welcomes the prospect of another round of base closings, which would be the fifth since 1988.

Fifth District U.S. Rep. Gene Taylor, a member of the House Armed Forces Committee, said he opposes a new round because he's not convinced previous ones have resulted in much savings.



Taylor

First District Rep. Roger Wicker, a Republican, shares that view, and 3rd District GOP Rep. Chip Pickering said he would not support more base closings unless training bases are off the table.

Democratic Reps. Ronnie Shows, of the 4th District, and Bennie Thompson, of the 2nd District, say they see no need for another round of shut-downs.

"Closing military bases would limit our defense capabilities and displace



Shows

health-care opportunities for our military retirees. And these two things cannot happen," Shows said. "I will fight tooth and nail to keep our bases open."

The Pentagon three times proposed the shutdown of Naval Air Station Meridian in previous base-closing rounds. But the base survived even though the Navy said it wanted only one training facility of its type and another is in Kingsville, Texas. A new base closing commission may heed the argument that the training missions need to be consolidated — and it may decide the best place to do it is in President Bush's home state of Texas.

Columbus Air Force Base, another pilot training center, would compete in a new round of base closings with Vance Air Force Base in Enid, Okla., and another Texas facility — Laughlin Air Force Base in the border town of Del Rio.

It's the base's training mission that will keep CAFB safe, said Charleigh Ford, head of the Columbus-Lowndes Economic Development Authority.

"We're cautiously optimistic about the condition of our Air Force base because of the pilot training and we know they are facing some big needs for pilots," Ford said. "We're hoping we will be taken out of the competition for closings. I don't know if that is going to

"If we know going in that we have a shortage of facilities for trained pilots ... why go through the strain and stress of base closure with those facilities?"

— Sen. Thad Cochran



happen, but if it did, that would be good."

Frank Thompson, manager of the business development for East Mississippi Business Development Corp. said he's also confident NAS Meridian would survive.

"It is a very key element in the training of pilots and with the support that we have for our bases, we're confident we will remain open," he said.

Lott said training bases have no excess capacity and he wants them kept from consideration in a new round of base closings. Lott also recommended shutting down U.S. bases in Europe before it considered facilities at home. But the Senate panel that approved a new round of base closings ignored Lott's suggestions.

Sen. Thad Cochran, R-Miss.,

also wants the to exclude pilot training bases from the next base closing process.

"If we know going in that we have a shortage of facilities for trained pilots ... why go through the strain and stress of base closure with those facilities?" Cochran asked Air Force Gen. Michael Ryan at a hearing earlier this year.

Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi and the Army's Camp Shelby in Hattiesburg have never been considered for closing, but a commission in 1993 recommended the Navy's port at Pascagoula for shutdown, and it could be looked at again.

To try to safeguard its bases, the state has formed a Mississippi Military Communities Council composed of representatives from each military town and the governor's office. The state also has hired Washington lobbyist Barry Rhoades, paying his firm an annual fee of about \$200,000 for the past several years to look out for the interests of Mississippi's bases.

Rhoades said the Senate's base closure plan is better for Mississippi's military communities than a proposal the Pentagon submitted to Congress last month.

"If there's going to be base closings, it's better to have a clean slate with an impartial panel," he said.

Clarion-Ledger staff writer Pamela Berry contributed to this report.

COLUMBUS AFB MS

The Clarion Ledger, 8 Sep 01, pg. 1/12A

Air Force board to investigate crash of T-37 trainer jet

By Consweila Bennett
ccbennett@cdispatch.com

A special investigatory team was expected to be at Columbus Air Force Base today in an attempt to learn what caused an Air Force T-37 trainer jet to crash Wednesday afternoon, base officials said.

Second Lt. James King of Concordville, Pa., the student pilot who was at the controls of the crashed jet, temporarily has been grounded from flight training missions, which were halted immediately after the crash but resumed Thursday.

Staff Sgt. Shelby Martin, an air base public affairs spokesman, said Thursday afternoon that King was doing fine but is unable to fly at this time.

"Any time you have a situation like this, a pilot wouldn't immedi-

ately go back into flying status," Martin said. "They have physicals and the doctor wants to make sure that he's physically and mentally fine. He will not return to flying status until the doctor OKs it."

King was safely able to eject from the jet, which crashed in a wooded, unpopulated area of Clay County about 28 miles west of Columbus Air Force Base on Hoss Johnson Road in the Mantee Community near Montpelier.

Martin said that a Safety Investigation Board, comprising six officers from different bases, is expected at the base today to complete the investigation to determine a cause for the accident.

According to Martin, the accident will be a military investigation and neither the Federal Avia-

Crash

Continued from page 1A

tion Administration nor National Transportation Safety Board would be involved.

"We don't have a reason for the crash yet. The interim safety and investigation board has gathered and preserved the evidence," Shelby said.

According to Martin, the interim board at the scene, led by scene commander Lt. Col. William Martin on Wednesday, does not determine the cause of the accident. That will be the duty of the Safety Investigation Board.

Shelby Martin said that once the base determined that the jet had crashed, all flying operations stopped Wednesday afternoon. According to Martin, at the time T-37

Please see **CRASH** on Page 13A

Tweets, T-38 Talons and T-1A Jayhawks were conducting flying missions.

According to Martin, the T-37 Tweets stationed at the base flew 111 training sorties Wednesday, T-38 Talons flew 52 sorties and the T-1A Jayhawks flew 46 sorties. The flying missions continued Thursday morning.

"It was business as usual. There are no changes in the missions," Martin said.

The T-37 Tweet is a twin-engine jet used for training undergraduate pilots in the fundamentals of aircraft handling, and instrument, formation and night flying.

Martin said that the crashed jet will be replaced. The jet was in several parts after the crash. The T-37 Tweet costs \$164,854.

The T-1A Jayhawk is a medium-range, twin-engine jet trainer and is used by the Air Force's Air

Education and Training Command to train student pilots to fly airlift or tanker aircraft.

The T-38 Talon is a twin-engine, high-altitude, supersonic jet trainer used in a variety of roles. It is used primarily by Air Education and Training Command for undergraduate pilot and pilot instructor training. Air combat command, air mobility command and National Aeronautics and space administration also use the T-38 in various roles, according to a base fact sheet.

Other crashes involving Columbus Air Force Base aircraft include:

■ Oct. 18, 1995: An AT-38 crashed near Becker, during a post-maintenance functional check flight. The pilot was able to eject safely and there were no fatalities. The crash was caused by material failure within the aircraft's hori-

zontal tail operating mechanism, according to Air Education and Training Command officials.

■ April 15, 1992: A two-ship formation of T-37s was involved in a midair collision during aerial maneuvering just southwest of Van Vleet in the Tombigbee National Forest in Chickasaw County. All four pilots ejected safely.

■ Jan. 17, 1986: A T-38 single-ship formation experienced structural failure during a maneuver four miles south of Pontotoc. The instructor and a student were both able to eject safely.

■ March 21, 1984: A T-38 was involved in a midair collision during maneuvers over Red Bay near Dime, Ala. There were three fatalities (two instructor pilots and one student). One student pilot ejected safely.

COLUMBUS AFB MS

The Commercial Dispatch, 7 Sep 01, pg. 1/13A

Team sent to examine crash

The Associated Press

COLUMBUS

The U.S. Air Force has sent a team of investigators to Columbus Air Force Base to learn what caused a T-37 trainer jet to crash Wednesday, base officials said.

Second Lt. James King of Concordville, Pa., the student pilot who was at the controls of the crashed jet, has been temporarily grounded from flight training missions.

Training flights resumed Thursday.

Staff Sgt. Shelby Martin, a CAFB spokesman, said Thursday King was doing fine but is unable to fly at this time.

"Any time you have a sit-

uation like this, a pilot wouldn't immediately go back into flying status," Martin said. "They have physicals and the doctor wants to make sure that he's physically and mentally fine. He will not return to flying status until the doctor OKs it."

King ejected safely from the jet, which crashed in a wooded, unpopulated area of Clay County about 28 miles west of the Air Force base.

"We don't have a reason for the crash yet. The interim safety and investigation board has gathered and preserved the evidence," Shelby said.

COLUMBUS AFB MS

The Clarion Ledger, 8 Sep 01, pg. 3B

Air Force Base

People don't care if they encroach Luke

Buyers swarm to purchase relatively inexpensive homes in the vicinity of Luke Air Force Base. These communities are connived by greedy developers and opportunistic city councils. Like large numbers of anthropomorphic insects the encroachers close escrows and bust of their great deals. But then, suddenly, one day they "appear" to awaken to the realities of having a military base

for a neighbor.

They whine, "It's too noisy." They bleat, "We could be killed." Similar to uninvited killer bees they begin attacking the base with vehement ardor. "Close it. Move it. It has outlived its usefulness. We don't want it."

Never mind that many of their neighbors are non-complaining, retired, military personnel who moved near the base to get the

medical and commissary services promised for 20 and 30 years of service. Never mind that although the base didn't invite the complainants, it has made valiant efforts to reroute flight paths and operations schedules in attempts to live peacefully with the encroachers. No, the encroachers don't care about any of that, because like spoiled brats they only focus on the "me." "Now that

we're here," they proclaim, "it has to be our way. Get the base out of here."

Lastly the encroachers proclaim, "It doesn't matter who was here first!" I wonder if they will they have the same attitudes when killer bees nest in their yards?

JOHN F. NIENSTEDT
KINGSWOOD PARKE

Loves Luke

I didn't miss the heat or traffic after being away for three months, but I did miss the sound of the Luke Air Force Base jets. Long may they fly and long may the base stay. Amen.

...

Are these people ridiculous? They are saying move Luke somewhere where it is more convenient for them. People are going to flock wherever the Air Force base is. It is an established area and it makes money. If they want to move the place, why don't they find the funds to move it? I am a true Arizonan and I love Luke AFB. If they don't like it they need to move and quit talking.

People should realize Luke's meaning

I am curious why people don't leave their names after saying Luke Air Force Base should be closed. I think people who praise Luke AFB have been in the service and I think those who haven't say "close the base." I think maybe they need to find deep inside why they want the base closed.

Anyone who took the responsibility to serve their government realizes why it is needed. I think everyone needs to look at the whole picture.

BRIAN LEACHT
EL MIRAGE

Surprise Independent

12-18 Sept. 01

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